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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe on behalf of its working group on global fundamental geospatial data themes. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made on identifying global fundamental geospatial data themes.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/103, in which it welcomed the report of the Regional Committee for Europe and its efforts to develop a draft minimum list of fundamental geospatial data themes for consideration by the Committee of Experts at its seventh session. The Committee of Experts affirmed the view of the working group on global fundamental geospatial data themes that national and regional initiatives related to fundamental geospatial data themes should be the basis for developing agreement on a set of global themes and noted the suggestions made to consider the need to clarify the notion of "fundamental data", including their definition, harmonization and prioritization at multiple spatial and temporal scales, and to define the role such data play.

In its report, the Regional Committee for Europe outlines the actions it has carried out to advance the work on the determination of fundamental geospatial data themes at the global level. It also describes its engagement with the other regional committees and their relevant working groups, the methodology used and the review

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process it has undergone to produce a proposal for a minimum list of fundamental geospatial data themes. The report includes a proposed list of fundamental geospatial data themes for consideration by the Committee of Experts, a description of subsequent work needed to produce high-level descriptions of each theme proposed and a review of the connections to other activities of the Committee of Experts. It also includes recommendations for next steps the Committee of Experts should consider.